

***City of Morgantown***  
**Human Rights Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes August 18, 2013**

**Present:** Jan Derry, Member  
Mike Fike, Member  
Warren Harger, Member  
Anne-Marie Lofaso, Member  
Anne Marlene Robinson-Savino, Secretary  
Don Spencer, Chair  
Tim Hairston – Liaison w/ State HRC

**Guests:** Eve Faulkes, Chair of Graphic Arts at WVU  
Chief Ed Preston, Morgantown Police Department

**Visitor:** John Miles

**Meeting called to order** by Don Spencer, Chair, at 6:35 p.m.

**Minutes read:** Anna Marlene Robinson presented the minutes and notes from the April, May, June and July meetings. Corrections for the name of John Miles were noted in the April minutes and in the spelling of the name of Anne-Marie Lofaso in the June minutes. Also a correction in the abbreviation for the NWCivil was noted for the June minutes. All sets of minutes were approved with the understanding that the spelling/typing corrections would be made.

**Presentation by Chief Preston:** Preston summarized his background and experience and described his philosophy of policing as based on monitoring quality of life considerations. He cited alcohol as a huge part of the problems which are faced, but noted that the University is gradually moving away from serving alcohol at various functions. He cited problems with binge drinking, fraternities, busing from other places during weekends, and the complexity of the relationships working with the ABCC. In spite of it all, there has been important progress made in increasing the numbers of arrests, in working with the ABCC, and in receiving the administrative cooperation from WVU, Frostburg State, Pitt and Potomac State. He also described successes in restructuring the public congregation points in the downtown by moving bus stops, benches, etc. He outlined the jurisdictional issues involved in collaboration with WVU police, the County and State police.

**In summary,** the Morgantown Police Department is policing three different community elements in the downtown: 1) businesses, 2) the day and evening social life, and 3) the after midnight scene. The MPD tools are having well educated/trained officers, qualified staff support, and retention of officers. As far as prevention goes, the MPD has been successful restructuring the downtown assembly points, cracking down on DUIs, and emphasizing policing “quality of life issues” (or the “broken window” concerns.).

In policing events and incidents, the MPD must honor jurisdictional limitations by the various departments and jurisdictional codes involved. And it has been successful in doing so and in working with college administrations from several institutions. As far as follow-up considerations, the MPD is “working to change culture”, continually analyzing needs, selecting priorities, and relating to the needs and backgrounds of various types of victims.

The Human Rights Commission members pointed out to Chief Preston that the HRC potential contributions can be to support prevention through providing education and increasing awareness and then through helping with follow-up referrals and mentoring services. Preston was thanked for his excellent presentation

**Report on Logo:** Eve Faulkes presented the most recent design and annotations for the HRC logo. The Commission was very impressed with her work and noted that the colors of the hands in the flame of the torch could be changed as different occasions or issues called for “color coding”. On a motion by Jan Derry seconded by Warren Harger, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the design and its flexibility and to forward it to the City Administration and the City Council for adoption. The Commission expressed appreciation to Eve Faulkes for her creative work in the development of the logo design.

**Action on Bylaws:** Don Spencer presented a copy of a critique by the City Attorney of a draft of the HRC bylaws with a proposed response and revised draft of the bylaws prepared in response to the critique. There was discussion of the critique and the Met Theatre bylaws suggested as a model for the HRC as well as the proposed changes in the revised HRC draft. It was noted that the operation of the Met Theatre Commission would be much different than the work of the HRC and require a different type of bylaws. A correction was made in Article 7B. On a motion by Jan Derry, seconded by Warren Harger, the revised draft of the bylaws was approved and the chair was authorized to forward them to the City Administration and to the City Council for approval.

**Proposed Meeting with City Officials:** The Commission agreed to use priority time at the September meeting of the HRC to prepare for a proposed meeting with Code Enforcement, Fire Marshall and Engineering staff on Fair Housing standards. Jan Derry agreed to provide leadership in the preparation. Don Spencer agreed to participate in the pre- HRC meeting preparation as well. It is anticipated that the meeting with the City officials will be requested for October.

Due to the lateness of the hour, the Commission agreed to delay work on items #8, 9, and 10 until the September 19<sup>th</sup> HRC meeting. These items will involve 1) planning HRC priorities for this new fiscal year; 2) bringing Commission Operations up-to-date with new membership, election of officers, and amending the visitor participation protocol as necessary; and 3) receiving Commissioner reports and concerns.

The meeting was adjourned with the approval of the membership at 8:45 p.m.